



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Flagstaff Area National
Monuments
Walnut Canyon, Wupatki,
and Sunset Crater Volcano
National Monuments

6400 N. Highway 89
Flagstaff, Arizona 86004
(928) 526-1157 phone
(928) 526-4259 fax

Visiting Our Outdoor Classrooms

National Park Service sites offer wonderful opportunities for students to experience an outdoor classroom. In gaining greater understanding of the earth and its inhabitants students learn stewardship and preservation ethics. Park Rangers work to preserve and protect monument resources while teaching students about what makes the sites special. Follow the steps below to plan and schedule your visit.

Schedule Your Visit: Please call or visit the web for registration forms:

- (928) 526-3367 / www.nps.gov/waca for trips to Walnut Canyon.
- (928) 526-0502 / www.nps.gov/sucr for trips to Sunset Crater Volcano.
- (928) 679-2365 / www.nps.gov/wupa for trips to Wupatki.



Please schedule your visit **at least one month in advance**, regardless of whether or not you would like a ranger program. If other groups have planned a visit on your day of choice, you may need to reschedule.

- **Helpful Tips:** Consider visiting off-season. The monuments are open every day but Christmas. March-June and August-October are the busiest months with many visiting school groups.

Groups who schedule an Orientation Resource Talk or other educational program will receive a Confirmation Letter that will serve as entrance to the park.

Other groups that are planning a purely recreational visit are subject to the entrance fee. Please call (928) 526-1157 for more information on fee waivers.

Obtain Teacher Packet: A teacher packet is available to help prepare you for your visit. If you received this page as a fax, contact the monument you wish to visit to request a free copy of the teacher packet. The packet includes:

- Registration forms, information for planning your visit and a list of educational activities.
- Brochures with maps and information for Walnut Canyon, Sunset Crater Volcano and Wupatki National Monuments.
- Previsit activities based on the Arizona Science Standards for geology and archeology.
- Selected resources and publications.



Change in Plans: If your plans change and you need to reschedule or cancel your visit, please **notify the monument you were scheduled to visit as soon as possible**. Programs may be cancelled if you do not arrive within 15 minutes of the scheduled starting time.

Group Size: Our facilities and monument resources cannot withstand groups of students and chaperones larger than 30 at one time in one place. If you will be bringing a large group to visit, please notify the monument so that we may assist in accommodating your group.



- **Helpful Tips:** Large groups can be divided between locations within one monument or between two monuments if you are visiting more than one. Please have your group divided into units of 30 or less prior to arrival.

Supervision: A minimum of **one adult to five students** is required. All adult chaperones are expected to actively participate in the supervision of students. Chaperones supervise and maintain discipline, while park rangers help students learn. An adult must accompany students at all times while in the monuments. It is not the responsibility of park personnel to take over the field trip once the group arrives. Chaperones will be on their own with their group after the ranger talk or walk. Monument rules and regulations must be adhered to.

Previsit Video: View the 11-minute video, "Parks Are For Kids," that introduces K-6th grade students to the National Park Service and to the resources of Walnut Canyon, Sunset Crater Volcano, and Wupatki National Monuments. The video is available in every Coconino County Elementary School library or from the Willow Bend Environmental Education Center. If your library doesn't have a copy, contact Western National Parks Association at (928) 526-1157 x226. You are welcome to make copies.

What You Can Expect From Us



We will assist with scheduling and coordinating your trip to provide students with a safe and worthwhile learning experience in our outdoor classroom.

If you request a ranger-led program, we will make every attempt to have a ranger available during your visit. We can usually provide a short Orientation Resource talk to groups of 30 or less at one time.

We may not be able to offer additional programs at certain times due to staffing levels. Sometimes emergencies arise that call rangers away. Please be prepared to conduct the visit on your own if necessary.



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Area Information

Safety: Walnut Canyon and Sunset Crater Volcano are located at 7,000 feet. Wupatki is located at 5,000 feet. If you are not from this area, be prepared for the effects of higher elevation, which can include shortness of breath, decreased energy, and lightheadedness.

- **Helpful Tips:** Have students bring at least one water bottle with them. Drink three quarts of water per day and go slowly to allow your body time to adjust to this environment.



Driving Time: Allow 30 minutes to travel from Flagstaff to either Walnut Canyon or Sunset Crater Volcano and an additional half hour to travel between Wupatki and Sunset Crater Volcano.

- Walnut Canyon to Sunset Crater – 20 miles – 30 minutes
- Sunset Crater to Wupatki – 20 miles – 30 minutes
- Walnut Canyon to Wupatki – 48 miles – 1 hour

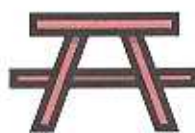


Weather: Dress appropriately since much of your visit will take place outside. Snow is common at Walnut Canyon and Sunset Crater Volcano during the winter, but can occur anytime between October and April. From July to September, expect afternoon thunderstorms. The temperature at Wupatki is typically 10-15 degrees warmer than that at Sunset Crater Volcano and Walnut Canyon.

Restrooms: Restrooms are located at each visitor center. Wupatki and Sunset Crater Volcano have additional restrooms at trailheads and picnic areas. Remember to plan for restroom breaks when scheduling your itinerary.

Accessibility: All three monuments have wheelchair accessible restrooms at the visitor center and one accessible trail. If your students have any physical, cultural, or language needs, please let us know.

Food: There are no restaurants or indoor lunch facilities at any of the monuments. A limited number of picnic tables are available at each monument on a first-come, first-serve basis. All tables are exposed, so inclement weather may necessitate eating on the bus.





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Park Rules and Regulations

Our rules protect the students, other visitors, and monument resources.

1. **No Souvenirs:** All plants, animals, rocks, and archeological artifacts are protected by law. Nothing can be removed from the monuments. Do not pick flowers or gather potsherds even to show them to a ranger.

Do not move or remove potsherds or any archeological artifact, even to bring them to a ranger. Archeologists obtain vital information from where pottery is found.

2. **Stay on Trails:** The ecology, landscape, and archeological sites of the parks are extremely fragile. Your group must remain on the trails and off ruin walls and geologic features.
3. **Respect:** Teach students to respect monument resources, property, and other visitors. The monuments are sacred sites with fragile and irreplaceable resources. Destructive behavior such as yelling, running or throwing objects will not be tolerated. Climbing on ruin walls, graffiti, damaging an archeological site, or collecting anything may result in fines of \$250 or more.

Please make sure litter and recycling are placed in the correct bins.

4. **Supervision:** A minimum of one adult to five children is required. All adult leaders are expected to actively participate in the supervision of students. It is not the responsibility of park personnel to take over the field trip when the group arrives.